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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/681,868	10/08/2003	Mark Sonderegger	NOR-025 (16107RO)	7388
32836	7590	08/10/2004	EXAMINER	
GUERIN & RODRIGUEZ, LLP 5 MOUNT ROYAL AVENUE MOUNT ROYAL OFFICE PARK MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752			NASRI, JAVAID H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/681,868	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SONDEREGGER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Javaid Nasri	<b>Art Unit</b> 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hizuka (6,550,977) in view of Maestranzi (6,745,911).

Hizuka discloses in an optical module having a faceplate (35) connected to a board (32) and an adapter (15) connected to the faceplate, the adapter having a fiber optic cable assembly (see figure 3) connected thereto within the optical module,

However, Hizuka does not disclose:

- a) An apparatus for activating a release tab of the fiber optic cable assembly.  
Maestranzi discloses an apparatus for activating a release tab (124, 126) of the fiber optic cable assembly (100) to disconnect the fiber optic cable assembly from the adapter (112), an actuator (120) rotatably connected for rotational movement about a pivot point (140, 158), therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention for Hizuka to have such an apparatus for activating a release tab of the fiber optic cable assembly in view of Maestranzi to vacillate in disconnecting the cable assembly from the adapter.

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3. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maestranzi (6,745,911) in view of Hizuka (6,550,977).

Maestranzi discloses **for claims 1, 10 and 13**, an apparatus for activating a release tab (124, 126) of the fiber optic cable assembly (100) to disconnect the fiber optic cable assembly from the adapter (112), an actuator (120) rotatably connected for rotational movement about a pivot point (140, 158), **for claim 3**, the actuator has a planar front surface that contacts the release tab of the fiber optic cable assembly when the actuator is rotated about the pivot point, **for claims 4 and 15**, the pivot point (158) is a post, **for claims 5 and 16**, the actuator includes a hook portion (220, 222) that rotatably connects to the post, **for claim 6**, the actuator has a planar back surface against which a user (116) can apply a force to rotate the actuator about the pivot point (see figure 2), **for claims 7 and 17**, the rotational movement for urging (154) the actuator against the release tab is counterclockwise (depends which way is being looked at), **for claim 9**, the actuator simultaneously engages a plurality of release tabs (124, 126) and simultaneously urges each release tab into an unlatched position when the actuator is rotated about the pivot point, **for claim 11**, means for guiding fiber optic cable having the urging means (154, see figure 4) formed thereon, **for claim 12**, the urging means (154) simultaneously engages a plurality of release tabs (124, 126) and simultaneously urges each release tab into an unlatched position when the urging means is rotated into the release tabs,

However, Maestranzi does not disclose:

- a) **For claims 1, 10 and 13**, an optical module having a faceplate connected to a board and an adapter connected to the faceplate, the adapter having a fiber optic cable assembly connected thereto within the optical module,

Hizuka discloses an optical module having a faceplate (35) connected to a board (32) and an adapter (15) connected to the faceplate, the adapter having a fiber optic cable assembly (see figure 3) connected thereto within the optical module, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention for Maestranzi's cable assembly disconnection mechanism being associated with an optical module having a faceplate connected to a board and an adapter connected to the faceplate, the adapter having a fiber optic cable assembly connected thereto within the optical module in view of Hizuka in order to vacillate disconnect the cable assembly associated with an optical module.

- b) **For claims 2 and 14**, a fiber optic cable spool. Official notice is taken that to have a cable spool is very common and well known in the art, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention for Maestranzi to have a cable spool in order to safely store the cable when not in use.
- c) **For claims 8 and 18**, the fiber optic cable assembly is a LC-type assembly. Official notice is taken that LC-type of connectors are well known in the art, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention for Hizuka's connector to be a LC-type connector in order to have a LC-type assembly.
- d) **For claim 19**, a second fiber optic cable assembly including a second fiber optic cable. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the

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art at the time the invention was made to have a second fiber optic cable assembly including a second fiber optic cable, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

***Contact***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javaid Nasri whose telephone number is 571 272 2095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on 571 272 2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:**

**Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

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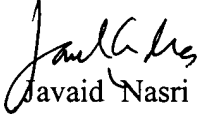
For additional information regarding this new address, which was effective May 1, 2003, see *Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office*, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

**Or faxed to:** 703-308-7722 or 308-7724 (informal or draft communications should be clearly labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

**Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:**

**Crystal Plaza 4, Fourth Floor (receptionist)**

**2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia**

  
Javaid Nasri  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

JN

Jhn

August 5, 2004